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Wage Price Index, Australia

The Wage Price Index measures changes in the price of labour services. It is unaffected by changes in the labour force composition

Reference period March 2020

Released 13/05/2020

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Key statistics

- The seasonally adjusted WPI rose 0.5% this quarter.
- The seasonally adjusted WPI rose 2.1% over the year to March 2020.
- The seasonally adjusted Private sector rose 0.5% this quarter.
- The seasonally adjusted Public sector rose 0.6% this quarter.

Main features

March key statistics

The seasonally adjusted WPI:

- rose 0.5% in March quarter 2020.
- rose 2.1% over the year to March quarter 2020, easing to a rate last recorded in June

quarter 2018.

Dec Qtr 2019 to Mar Qtr 2020		Mar Qtr 2019 to Mar Qtr 2020	
% change		% change	
Wage Price Index (WPI)			
Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses			
Trend(a)			
Australia	0.5		2.1
Sector			
Private	0.5		2.1
Public	0.4		2.2
Seasonally Adjusted(b)			
Australia	0.5		2.1
Sector			
Private	0.5		2.1
Public	0.6		2.4
Original			
Australia	0.4		2.2
Sector			
Private	0.4		2.1
Public	0.5		2.3

a. See Explanatory Notes paragraphs 39-40, 42 on the Methodology page.

b. See Explanatory Notes paragraphs 32-38, 42 on the Methodology page.

Sector

Seasonally adjusted:

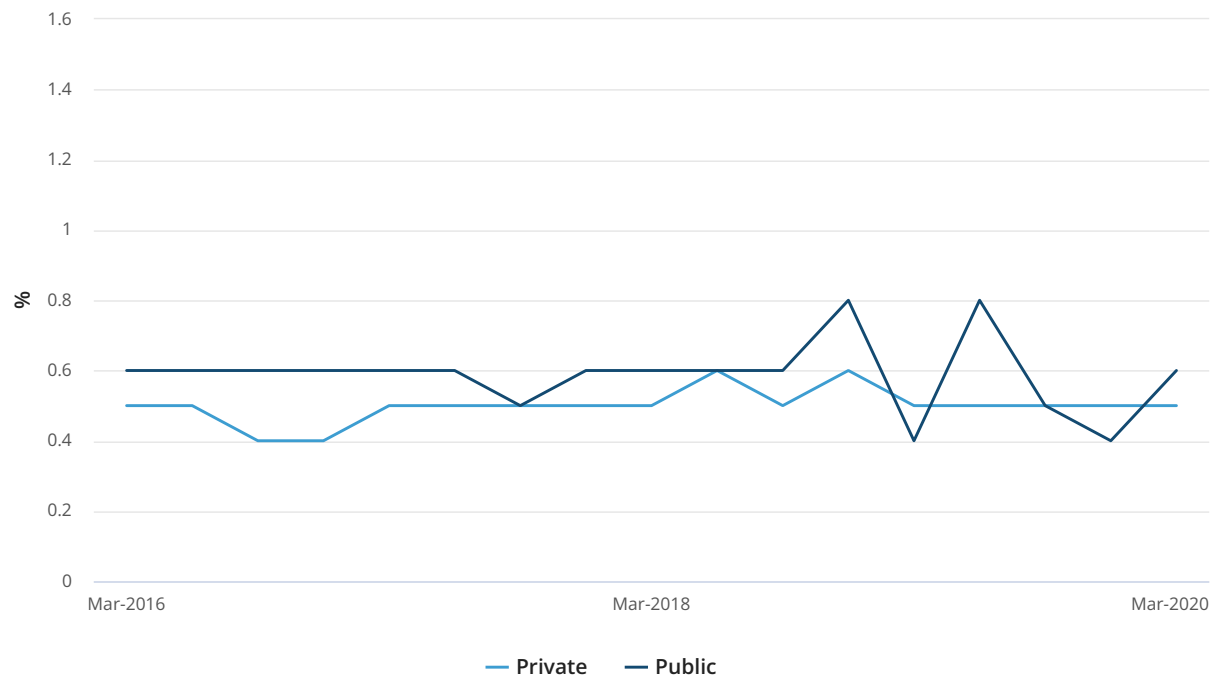
- The Private sector rose 0.5% over the quarter.
- The Public sector rose 0.6% in the March quarter.

Through the year

Seasonally adjusted:

- The Private sector rose 2.1% over the twelve months to the March quarter 2020, continuing the gradual slowing from the recent peak rate of 2.4% recorded in March quarter 2019.
- The Public sector rose 2.4% over the twelve months to the March quarter 2020, an increase from the series-low through the year rate of growth (2.2%) recorded in December quarter 2019.

Quarterly changes, seasonally adjusted, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses



Commentary

Main contributors

State and territory contributors were:

- New South Wales,
- Queensland, and
- Victoria.

Industry contributors were:

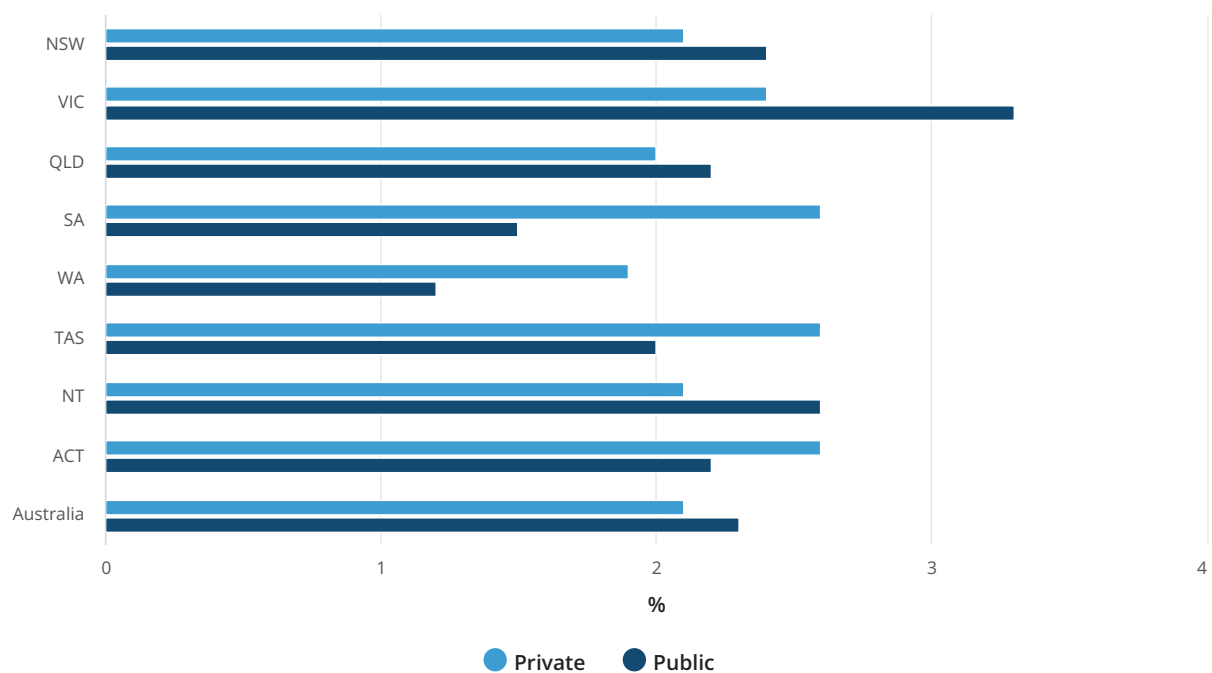
- Education and training, and
- Health care and social assistance.

Wage growth by state or territory

Original estimates:

- Queensland recorded the highest quarterly rise of 0.6%.
- Tasmania and the Northern Territory recorded the lowest quarterly rise of 0.3%.
- Victoria recorded the highest through the year rise of 2.5%.
- Western Australia recorded the lowest through the year rise of 1.8%.
- On a through the year basis, Western Australia has reported rates of growth below 2.0% since June quarter 2016.

Annual change, original, total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses - states and territories

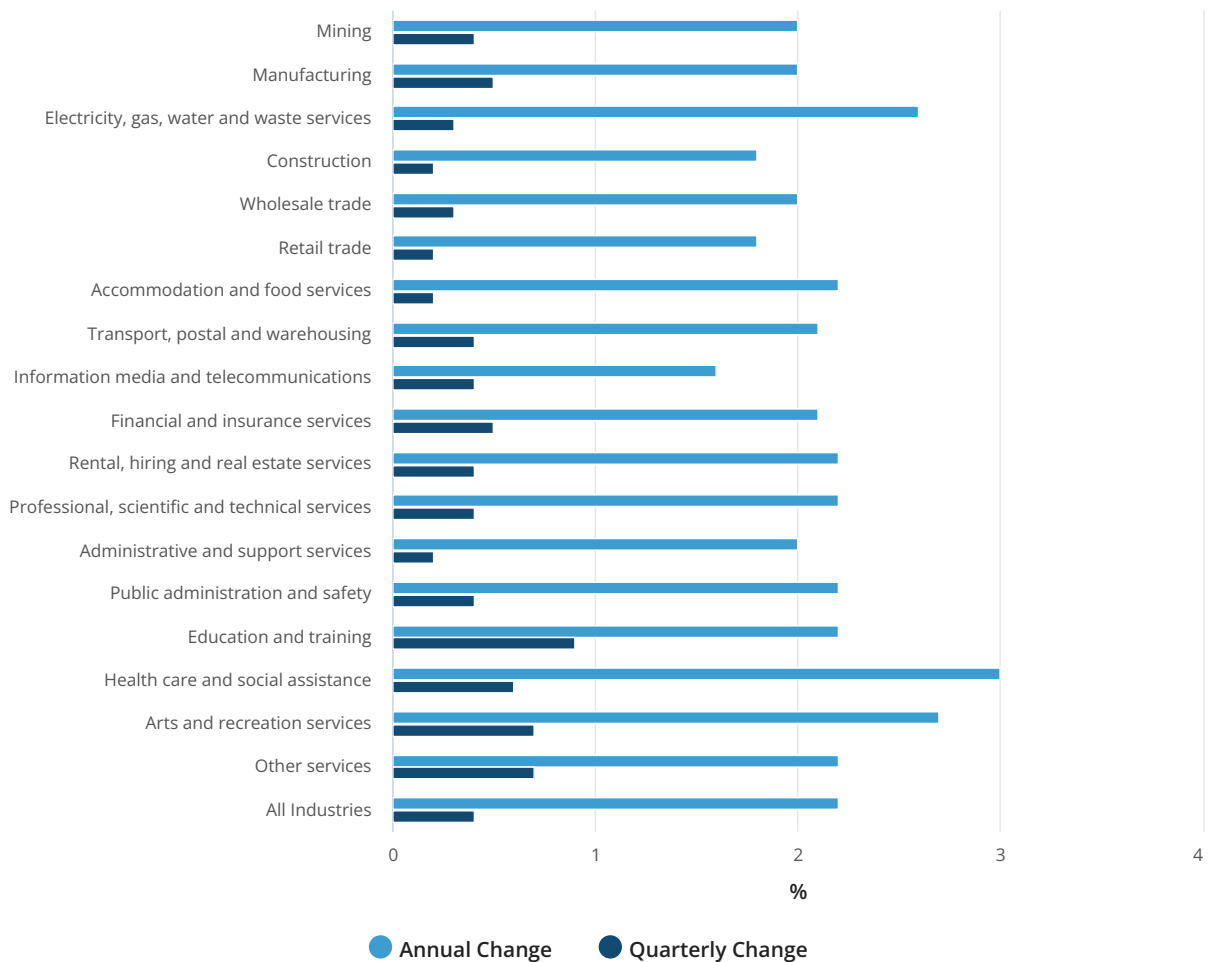


Wage growth by industry

Original estimates:

- Education and training recorded the highest quarterly rise of 0.9%.
- Construction, Retail trade, Accommodation and food services and Administrative and support services recorded the same lowest quarterly rise of 0.2%.
- Health care and social assistance recorded the highest through the year rise of 3.0%.
- Information, media and telecommunications recorded the lowest through the year rise of 1.6%.

Annual and quarterly changes, original, total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses - industry



Measuring the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The ABS is currently monitoring for potential impacts from the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the collection of Wage Price Index statistics, and will continue to do so for the duration of the pandemic.

Quality assurance activities conducted on March quarter data did not identify a notable impact on survey collection operations or the quality of March quarter data, with the response to the survey at a similar level as previous quarters.

It is important to note that the reference period for the March quarter was the pay period on or before 21 February 2020, which was before a global pandemic was declared and before the impact of government restrictions on business activity and the labour market.

Use of price indexes in contracts

Price indexes published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provide summary measures of the movements in various categories of prices over time. They are published primarily for use in Government economic analysis. Price indexes are also often used in contracts by businesses and government to adjust payments and/or charges to take account of changes in categories of prices (Indexation Clauses).

[Use of Price Indexes in Contracts \(https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Inflation+and+Price+Indexes+-+Use+of+Price+Indexes+in+Contracts\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Inflation+and+Price+Indexes+-+Use+of+Price+Indexes+in+Contracts) sets out a range of issues that should be taken into account by parties considering the inclusion of an Indexation Clause within a contract utilising an ABS published price index.

Frequently asked questions

The [Wage Price Index FAQs \(https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Wage+Price+Indexes+FAQs\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Wage+Price+Indexes+FAQs) page has answers to a number of common questions to do with price indexes and the Wage Price Index, in particular.

Data downloads - time series spreadsheets

I-Note

The wage price indexes in Tables 1, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, 7b, 8b and 9b are updated and released every quarter. The corresponding financial year wage price indexes in Tables 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 7a, 8a and 9a are updated and released each June quarter for the preceding financial year. There are no financial year indexes created for Table 1.

Table 1. Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: sector, original, seasonally adjusted and trend

[!\[\]\(51514032c8ca341817228f39f1307b05_img.jpg\) Download XLS](#)
[93.5 KB]

Table 2a. Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: all sectors by state,

original (financial year index numbers for year ended June quarter)

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[67 KB]

Table 2b. Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: all sectors by state, original (quarterly index numbers)

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[107 KB]

Table 3a. Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: private sector by state, original (financial year index numbers for year ended June quarter)

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[67 KB]

Table 3b. Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: private sector by state, original (quarterly index numbers)

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[106 KB]

Table 4a. Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: public sector by state, original (financial year index numbers for year ended June quarter)

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[67 KB]

Table 4b. Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: public sector by state, original (quarterly index numbers)

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[107 KB]

Table 5a. Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: sector by industry, original (financial year index numbers for year ended June quarter)

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[192.5 KB]

Table 5b. Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: Sector by industry, original (quarterly index numbers)

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[382.5 KB]

Table 7a. Hourly rates of pay including bonuses: sector, original (financial year index numbers for year ended June quarter)

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[56.5 KB]

Table 7b. Hourly rates of pay including bonuses: sector, original (quarterly index numbers)

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[84.5 KB]

Table 8a. Ordinary hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: all sectors by state, original (financial year index numbers for year ended June quarter)

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[67.5 KB]

Table 8b. Ordinary hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: all sectors by state, original (quarterly index numbers)

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[107.5 KB]

Table 9a. Ordinary hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: sector by industry, original (financial year index numbers for year ended June quarter)

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[192.5 KB]

Table 9b. Ordinary hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses: sector by industry, original (quarterly index numbers)

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[384 KB]

All WPI series: original (quarterly index numbers)

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[309.5 KB]

All WPI series: original (financial year index numbers for year ended June quarter)

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[250 KB]

Data downloads - data cubes

63450. Distribution of expenditure on wages, Wage Price Index, Australia

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[780.5 KB]

Methodology

[Wage Price Index, Australia methodology, March 2020](#)